

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

From the recent Sandoval Signpost. And we will remember your votes come election time.

Horses aren't reckless, but NM 165 drivers are

by TS Last
February 17, 2023
Published February 17th, 2023 at 4:11 pm

Editor:

Someone, for what good it will do, needs to somehow communicate to Sandoval County Sheriff Jesse James Casaus that the problem they need to address is not the "wild" horses, but the insanity of speeding, aggressive drivers on NM 165 in Placitas, especially after dark.

Chief Deputy Allen Mills is "gas-lighting" the anemic, ineffective current enforcement of speeding, aggressive drivers; days and especially nights. If I see a deputy on 165, which is not often enough, they are parked in clearly visible sight, where drivers see them and slow down... until they pass. I don't think I have ever seen an officer on 165 at night.

They pass the parked deputy, then resume their careless, reckless high speed driving, tailgating in a hurry to get wherever they are going a few minutes quicker... Surely, the Sheriff's department can find ways to use unmarked cars, motorcycle officers, and not so obvious officers cruising or sitting in marked black and whites.

The horses are animals that obey the laws of their Creator, unlike humans; they are not careless or reckless in their meandering to find food or water. Until there are consequences in the wallets of these drivers through ticketing and as a result higher insurance rates, nothing will change. The horses are not to blame.

If I may, it is the same case that applies in reforming police. As long as taxpayer money goes to settle cases of police corruption or misconduct and it costs the officer in question nothing from their employ-ability, their pension, or pay, nothing will change.

They go from one police department to another and repeat conditioned behavior. As in any effort to change behavior, having no consequences of significance only enables, if not encourages, behavior as usual, be it speeding reckless drivers, bad cops or student misbehavior.

Finally, the preventable liability and tragedy that will occur as a result of what can only be described as a laughable if not ridiculous "bicycle lane" on NM 165. Bicyclist are forced to share the road with those same reckless speeding motorist that hit horses. It is only a matter of when a bicyclist will get killed by the high traffic that frequents 165 more and more.

The cost of widening NM 165 just two feet, or making an improvement of the road shoulder to facilitate bike traffic safely, is more important than the cost of a human life. This has the shared connection as consequences for bad cops; the cases in both instances (cost) will be settled and paid for by taxpayer money.

People are the problem; not the horses and not the cyclist.

It is preventable proactively.

Richard Lara

Placitas

It's Not a Horse Problem, it's a Human Problem

by Pat Davis

February 17, 2023

Published February 17th, 2023 at 4:09 pm, Last Updated February 17th, 2023 at 4:12 pm

Editor:

I wanted to address the so-called "horse problem."

In my opinion, this is not a horse problem. It's a human problem.

I can't count the number of times I've had to panic stop or pull hard right to avoid an accident with speeders. I live off of Camino San Francisco; I call it the SF 500. In my experience, people speeding is the overwhelming cause of horse-car or truck accidents in Placitas.

Let me expand my thesis: If a speeder hit one of the many people who walk the roads, would that be a "walker problem"? Of course not. It was the uncaring, reckless speeder, the same with the horses.

So why do you and others refer to this as a "horse problem" when clearly it's a human speeder problem? Why not campaign for more of a Sheriff's Office presence, speed bumps or wider roads, rather than blame the ones who are the most innocent in this entire scenario, the horses?

The complainers are in my estimation the very same speeders who want the right to blast down the narrow roads at whatever speed they wish. Address the root of the problem, not the victims.

To further bolster my beliefs with regard to human behavior, why are there numerous accidents on the S curve? Who in their right mind would pass on a triple S curve? In my opinion, the very same people who speed and complain about the horses being on the road. They don't want to be held accountable to be held up one minute.

Dean Alexander

Placitas